

FILE NO. 06-283

By Supervisor Rice

A RESOLUTION

to create a Code of Ethics Study Committee to study the existing and proposed provisions of the Milwaukee County Code of Ethics, research comparable codes in other jurisdictions and report recommendations to the County Board.

WHEREAS, the Code of Ethics ("Code") has been modified several times (e.g., File Nos. 87-843, 90-300, 90-365, 04-191) since its creation as Chapter 9 in the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances in 1975; and

WHEREAS, modifications to the Code have generally been responsive in nature, precipitated by events that have tested Code provisions, and have resulted in a Code that is reactive rather than proactive; and

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Corporation Counsel noted in a memo dated April 10, 2006 that "[t]he difficulty of this method of reform is that it often reacts to a specific set of facts and may not be appropriate or workable when another set of facts is presented"; and

WHEREAS, because the Code of Ethics represents the means to instill public confidence in the integrity of county government by establishing standards of conduct for Milwaukee County officials, it is imperative that all provisions of and any proposed revisions to the Code receive thorough scrutiny for processes and propriety; and

WHEREAS, a Code of Ethics Study Committee, composed of County officials and members of the community, will function as an evaluator of existing and proposed provisions of the Milwaukee County Code of Ethics, and make recommendations to the Committee on Judiciary, Safety and General Services; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby creates the Code of Ethics Study Committee to study the existing and proposed provisions of the Milwaukee County Code of Ethics, research comparable codes in other jurisdictions and report recommendations to the Committee on Judiciary, Safety and General Services for advancement to the full County Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Code of Ethics Study Committee shall be composed of the following members: the Ethics Board Chairman or designee, the Corporation Counsel or designee, one County Board Supervisor designated by the County Board Chairman, and County Board staff; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Board Chairman and County Executive are each authorized to appoint one community member who shall be representative of an academic, civic or faith-based community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Code of Ethics Study Committee shall issue an interim study report for consideration at the December 2006 meeting of the Committee on Judiciary, Safety and General Services.

